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Environment and sustainable development: International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Daúl Matute (Peru), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.29

International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997 and 53/185 of 15 December 1998 on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and reiterating Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/46 of 28 July 1999 on the same subject and Council resolution 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 on the successor arrangements for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction,

Recalling also paragraph 20 of the report of the Secretary-General on successor arrangements for the Decade,[1]

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon[2] and the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its seventh session,[3]

Having also considered the report on the conclusions and recommendations of the first Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts on El Niño, held at Guayaquil, Ecuador, from 9 to 13 November 1998, and the feasibility study for the establishment of an international research centre on the El Niño/Southern Oscillation, as discussed in annex II of the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon,

[1] A/54/497.
[2] A/54/135-E/1998/88.
[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1999, Supplement No. 9* (E/1999/29).

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Reaffirming the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and rehabilitate the damages caused by natural disasters resulting from the El Niño phenomenon,

Taking into account the considerations in relation to the use of tele-observation systems on weather forecast and climate, contained in the report of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held in Vienna, from 19 to 30 July 1999,[4]

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the Secretary-General[2] and endorses the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

2. *Welcomes* the 1999 retrospective report on the El Niño/Southern Oscillation prepared by the World Meteorological Organization;

3. *Reiterates* the invitation made by the General Assembly to Member States in paragraphs 8 and 9 of its resolution 52/200, in relation to the technical and financial assistance needed to strengthen the national capacity of developing countries to support observation and research systems at the global and regional levels to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by the El Niño/Southern Oscillation;

4. *Welcomes* the recommendations of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session regarding the approach that the United Nations system and the international community should take in dealing with the El Niño/Southern Oscillation, and reiterates the invitation to Member States to cover in their annual national reports the impact of the El Niño/Southern Oscillation;

5. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General, the relevant United Nations organizations and the international community to take necessary measures, as appropriate, towards the establishment of the international research centre on El Niño at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and invites the international community to provide financial, technical and scientific assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as encourages that centre to strengthen its links with other relevant regional and global climate-study organizations, and to focus on practical application of El Niño information in such areas as disaster preparedness, agriculture, health, tourism, water and energy;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to promote the full implementation of General Assembly resolutions 52/200 and 53/185, as an integral part of the agreed arrangements after the conclusion of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session, through the Commission on Sustainable Development at its eighth session and the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2000, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, under the agenda item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

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[4] A/CONF.184/6